015-1540-0004

**United States Department of the Interior National Park Service** 

### **National Register of Historic Places** Inventory—Nomination Form

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Type an entries	s—complete appl	icable sections		
<u>1. Nam</u>	ie			
historic E1 De	orado Carnegie	Library		
and or common	El Dorado Ca	rnegie Library Building		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	101 S. Sta	r		not for publication
city, town E1	Dorado	vicinity of		
state Kansa	s	code <sup>20</sup> count	y Butler	code 015
3. Clas	sificatio	) <b>11</b>		
Category  district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public both Public Acquisit N/A in process N/A being consider	$\underline{\underline{X}}$ yes: restricted	entertainment government	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owr	ner of Pro	operty		
name Dean	Seeber			
street & number	101 S. Sta	ır		
city, town E	l Dorado	vicinity of	state	Kansas 67042
5. Loca	ation of	Legal Descript	ion	
courthouse, reg	istry of deeds, etc.	Butler County Clerk		
street & number	Butler Cour	ity Courthouse		
city, town E	1 Dorado		state	Kansas 67042
	resentat	ion in Existing		mendekkan di berasakan jari badi Madada di Makada jili di bara makada sa sakal Middi Mademasa Amerikan jababad
N1 / A		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		X X
		nas this p	property been determined e	ligible? yes Xn
date N/A			federal sta	te county loca
		* ·		
depository for s	urvey records	N/A		

Condition  X excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one X original site moved date	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Description

The El Dorado Carnegie Library Building (c. 1912) is located at 101 S. Star in El Dorado, Butler County, Kansas (pop. 10,510). The one-story, limestone eclectic Neo-Classical building stands on a corner lot in the western end of El Dorado's central business district, directly west of the Butler County Courthouse. Its facade orientation is east. The building measures approximately thirty feet from north to south and fifty feet from east to west. In 1959, El Dorado built a new library. The Carnegie Library Building was recently rehabilitated into offices for a petroleum geology firm.

The one-story, native limestone building sits on a rusticated limestone block raised foundation. It is a rectangular structure with a pantiled, ridge hipped roof. One bay comprises the building's facade and rear, it is three bays deep. A pillared entryway with a parapet projects from the facade's center. A chimney with an ashlar cut limestone pot and upper area limestone ornamentation rises from the rear elevation's center.

The pillared entryway contains a double door with an arched, six-paned, transom. The original doors have been replaced but the transom remains. A limestone block architrave with a keystone outlines the upper two-thirds of the door. Multiply moulded, ashlar cut capitals ornament the rusticated limestone pillars. A limestone cross motif underscores the capitals. The pillars support a wooden entablature which ornaments the building. Large, curved, wooden modillion blocks stand beneath the eave line in the pillared entryway. A tri-partite wooden parapet surmounts the pillared entryway. Original cast iron sconces with milk glass bowls are affixed to the pillars. Stone steps with flanking limestone abutments lead up to the doorway.

Pairs of one-over-one double hung windows surmounted by rusticated limestone block lintels with shouldered architrave surrounds and underscored by ashlar cut limestone sills fenestrate the two outer bays of the facade and rear elevations. Limestone modillion blocks project beneath the sills. The fenestration on the north and south elevations is comprised of a center grouping of four, 1/1 double hung windows surmounted by a rusticated limestone block lintel with a shouldered architrave surround and underscored by an ashlar cut sill with projecting limestone block modillions. Three, 1/1 double hung windows with the sill and lintel treatment afore described flank the center bay. Projecting rusticated limestone pilasters define the southern elevation's center bay. On the northern elevation this treatment incorporates the entryway's motifs. The pilasters are topped with limestone capitals, a modillioned course runs beneath the entablature, and a parapet surmounts the bay. The foundation windows which pierce the wall below the rusticated limestone water table are grouped so that under each pair of 1/1 double hung, first level windows there is one basement window, under each group of three, 1/1 double hung, first level windows there are two basement windows, and under each group of four, 1/1 double hung, first level windows there are three basement windows. A rear door pierces the foundation below the rear elevation's southern window.

The interior of the library maintains its original three bay floorplan and ceramic, mosaic tiled floor vestibule entrance with a staircase to the basement. Additionally, the stair rises a half story, providing a vestibule entrance to the enclosed

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office in the eastern wall of the building. The building retains its beamed ceiling and Doric pillars and pilasters. The building maintains its door and window surrounds, vestibule and rear basement stairs, vestibule doors, and fireplaces. The woodwork is stained and sealed.

### Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	agriculture X architecture	community plann conservation conservation conomics X education engineering		religion science sculpture X social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c.1912	Builder/Architect	John F. Stanton - Archit	tect
Statement of S	ignificance (in one paragr		Sharp Brothers - Builder	

The El Dorado Carnegie Library Building (c. 1912) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Carnegie Libraries of Kansas thematic resources nomination (c. 1902-1921) at the local level of significance under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program and for its architectural significance as a new building type. A library association was organized in El Dorado in 1897. The community received their \$10,000.00 Carnegie Library grant in 1910, library construction was completed in 1912. The El Dorado Carnegie Library Building is an example of the eclectic Neo-Classical style.

Sixty-three Carnegie funded libraries were built in Kansas during the first three decades of the Twentieth Century; four of these libraries were built on college campuses. In most cases, the Carnegie funded library represented the community's first library building although many Kansas communities had book clubs and library organizations well before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program was founded. In the case of the four college libraries, the building represented the first structure which was solely devoted to housing the institution's books and providing study space. Carnegie did not solicit interest in the program, with the exception of the Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library which was built by Carnegie as a memorial to his friend John Anderson and was the first college library nationally to receive Carnegie funding. Communities initiated contact with the corporation by letter, indicating their desire for a Carnegie funded library. If the Corporation responded favorably to the request, a firm local commitment to the program's requirements, which generally resulted in a public election in support of the library, followed. Obviously these actions represented a perceived need within the community for a library building and the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program represented an excellent way to secure the funds to build one. Many of the Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas reflect the high space utilization design guidelines promoted by the Carnegie Corporation after 1910, underscoring the point that before the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program, few architects and/or builders had experience designing this building type.

Twenty-eight Carnegie Libraries are included in this nomination (see inventory). Twelve Carnegie Libraries have been listed individually on the National Register: Argentine, Case Library (Baker University, Baldwin City), Caldwell, Dodge City, Emporia, Goodland, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Newton, Ottawa, Parsons, and Pittsburg. The Carnegie Library at Arkansas City is included in a downtown historic district. Thirteen Carnegie Libraries have been demolished: Great Bend, Halstead, Hays, Tola, Kansas City, McPherson, Morrison Library (Fairmont College, Wichita), Olathe, Osawatomie, Plainville, Russell, Salina, and Washington. Five Carnegie Libraries have been altered enough to make them ineligible for the National Register: Abilene, Garden City, Hiawatha, Lyons, and Stockton. (The nominations for the Concordia, Eureka, Independence, and Winfield libraries were deferred.) Twenty-two of the nominated libraries retain their original function. All of the buildings are in use or have an active use planned for them. The

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nominated libraries maintain a high to moderate degree of architectural and structural integrity.

Industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) and the Carnegie Corporation significantly influenced the development and expansion of public library systems worldwide. Between 1886 and 1921 Carnegie funds assisted in the construction of 1,681 city and 108 college libraries in the United States. As a region, the Mid-West, Kansas included, did not have a well established public library system until the Carnegie Program and ranks highest in the number of communities which obtained Carnegie Libraries nationwide. Out of the forty-six states to participate in the library building program, Kansas ranks approximately eleventh in the number of Carnegie Libraries built. For many Kansas communities, the Carnegie Library represented its first library building, providing an environment that all members of the community could share for the purposes of reading, learning, and education.

Eligibility for Carnegie Library funds rested on several factors. Firstly, the population of the community had to exceed 1,000; in Kansas this indicated at least a second class city status. This population requirement generally resulted in county seat communities applying for and receiving Carnegie Libraries. Some communities with populations less than 1,000 banded together with neighboring communities to achieve the 1,000 mark and applied for township libraries, as in the case of the Peabody and Canton Township libraries. In the case of college libraries this constraint may not have applied, although the four Kansas colleges to receive Carnegie libraries were located in cities which had populations in excess of 1,000 by 1900. Secondly, the applicant had to provide a site for the library. The sites tended to be one or two blocks outside of the community's main business district. Thirdly, the applicant had to provide an annual endowment for the maintenance and improvement of the library which amounted to at least ten percent of the initial grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

This last factor contributed to the ending of the Carnegie Library Building Program in 1917, although grants for books and other improvements continued for several more decades. An inherent problem for second class cities in Kansas was the .4 mill levy restriction for libraries, making it difficult for some communities to meet the annual ten percent maintenance appropriation solely through public dollars. In 1917 the Kansas State legislature increased the library levy to .5 mill for second and third class cities, an amendment which affected most of the communities in the State that had Carnegie Libraries. In 1916, large communities such as Topeka, Wichita, Hutchinson, and Leavenworth had library mill levies of 1.06, 1.2, 1.8, and 3.5 respectively. In Kansas, the average public library grant was \$12,000 and the average college library grant was \$37,000. These monies covered the cost of the building, the necessary furniture and fixtures, and the architects' fees.

Prior to 1910, the Carnegie Corporation did not provide design guidelines for the libraries that it funded and because the library was a relatively new building type, few architects and/or builders had experience with its design. Many of the early libraries were expensive examples of the Beaux Arts style with little focus on floor plan and space

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efficiency. In 1910, Carnegie's personal secretary James Bertram developed model specifications and floorplans for proposed libraries, entitling his work Notes on Library Buildings. The Notes on Library Buildings provided the first widely circulated guidelines for library design in this country.

#### Bertram wrote:

Small libraries should be pland (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position.... The bilding (sic) should be devoted exclusively to: (main floor) housing of books and their issue for home use; comfortable accomodations for reading them by adults and children; (basement) lecture room; necessary accommodation for heating plant; also all conveniences for the library patrons and staff. Experience seems to sho (sic) that the best results for a small general library are obtained by adopting the one-story and basement rectangular type of bilding (sic), with a small vestibule entering into one large room sub-divided as required by means of bookcases.... The rear and side windows may be kept about six feet from the floor, to giv (sic) continuous wall space for shelving. A rear wing can be added for stack-room (when future need demands it) at a minimum expense, and without seriously interfering with the library servis (sic) during its construction. site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides, and be large enuf (sic) to allow extension, if ever such should become necessary.

The thirty-six Carnegie Libraries built in Kansas after 1910 reflect Bertram's precedents, exhibiting high space utilization, and often including full basements, although the raised basement is a design element employed in the earlier libraries as well. Most of these one-story libraries exhibit a three bay, Neo-Classical facade with a projecting central pedimented entry pavilion and are one bay deep. The use of native limestone is evident in some of the libraries but the most common material combination is brick with a limestone foundation. While there is some tendency toward a vernacular interpretation to the design ornamentation of these libraries, the general approach verges on high style.

Correspondence between the Carnegie Corporation and the library boards from the Kansas communities that received Carnegie Libraries indicates that the designs for these libraries were carefully scrutinized by Bertram and in many cases, were resubmitted several times before meeting his requirements. Upon the completion of a library, the library board was instructed to send a full set of blueprints and elevations of the building to the Corporation. However, recent correspondence between the Kansas State Historical Society and the Carnegie Corporation reveals that the Corporation does not have blueprints of the Kansas libraries. The Corporation does have some library photographs but the collection is not inclusive.

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Three architects were particularly active in the design of Kansas Carnegie Libraries: George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas designed nine, A. T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois designed six, and William Warren Rose of Kansas City, Kansas designed four. Washburn's libraries are primarily of the standard three-bay, Neo-Classical variety. His firm is credited with the Carnegie libraries in Burlington, Canton, Cherryvale, Columbus, Eureka, Halstead, Osawatomie, Ottawa, and Sterling. Simmons engaged in a more eclectic approach, designing libraries in Abilene, Chanute, Council Grove, Downs, Hays and Yates Center. Rose is credited with the classically inspired libraries in Argentine, Kansas City, Manhattan, and Newton. In Kansas, many Kansas based architects were commissioned to design Carnegie Libraries as well as architects from Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas.

Today, many of the state's Carnegie Libraries are facing serious space shortages. The alternatives of adding on or vacating both present preservation problems. Additions to these libraries must be such that the building's original character is not altered. Vacating the library for a larger facility leaves the problem of an empty building, in some communities county historical societies have inherited the empty Carnegie Library. In any event, when these buildings are no longer recognized from a design standpoint as Carnegie Libraries, their architectural significance ceases.

### Inventory of Carnegie Libraries in Kansas

	SITE	DATE	INVENTORY NUMBER
1.	Anthony Public (Carnegie) Library (Harper County) 104 N. Springfield Anthony, Kansas 67003 Owner: City of Anthony Lots 22,23,24; Block 34.	c. 1911	000년 77 <b>-</b> 0180 <del>-0003</del>
2.	Burlington Carnegie Free Library (Coffey County) 201 N. Third Burlington, Kansas 66839 Owner: City of Burlington Lots 8,9; Block 35.	c. 1912	31-0690-0015
3.	Canton Township Carnegie Library (McPherson County) Box 336 Canton, Kansas 67428 Owner: Canton Township Lots 7,8,9,10,11; Block 2.	c. 1921	113-0790-0001
4.	Chanute Public (Carnegie) Library (Neosho County) 102 S. Lincoln Chanute, Kansas 66720 Owner: City of Chanute Lots 2,3; Block 39.	c. 1906	133-0870-0067
5.	Cherryvale Public (Carnegie) Library (Montgomery County) 329 E. Main Cherryvale, Kansas 67335 Owner: City of Cherryvale Lots 7,8; Block 39.	c. 1913	0930~0005 125 <del>-0939-0006</del>
6.	Clay Center Carnegie Library (Clay County) 706 Sixth Street Clay Center, Kansas 67432 Owner: City of Clay Center Lots 12,13; Block 36.	c. 1912	27-0980-0008

7.	Coffeyville Carnegie Public Library Building (Montgomery County) 415 West 8th Coffeyville, Kansas 67337 Owner: City of Coffeyville Lots 7,8; Block 47.	c. 1912	1050 125 <del>-2670</del> -0019
8.	Columbus Public (Carnegie) Library (Cherokee County) 205 N. Kansas Columbus, Kansas 66725 Owner: City of Columbus Lots 9,10; Block 9.	c. 1913	21-1100-0008
9.	Council Grove (Carnegie) Library (Morris County) 303 W. Main Street Council Grove, Kansas 66846 Owner: City of Council Grove Lots 1,2,3; Block 19.	c. 1917	127-1180-0074
10.	Downs Carnegie Library (Osborne County) 504 S. Morgan Downs, Kansas 67437 Owner: City of Downs Lots 8-12; Block 28.	c. 1906	141-1400-0002
11.	El Dorado Carnegie Library Building (Butler County) 101 S. Star El Dorado, Kansas 67042 Owner: Dean Seeber N 4' Lot 3, Lot 4; Block 4.	c. 1912	15-1540-0004
12.	Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County) The Way College of Emporia 1300 West 12th Avenue Emporia, Kansas 66801 Owner: Way College of Emporia Located on the Way College of Emporia campus. SW, NE1/4,Sec.9,T19,R11, E. of the 6th p.m., running thence E. 76 rods, thence N. 80 rods, thence W. 76 rods, thence S 80 rods to the	c. 1902	111-1660-0002

Anderson (Carnegie) Memorial Library (Lyon County) cont.

place of beg., except a tract beg. at the S,SW1/4 Sec. 9, thence N. 670 ft., thence E. 540 ft., thence S. 250 ft, thence W. 374 ft., thence S. 420 ft., thence W. 166 ft. to the point of beg. in Lyon Co.,KS and Lots Numbered 61,63,65,67,71, and the N. 30 ft. of Lot F all in Block numbered 3, in College Hill Addition to the City of Emporia.

Kingman, Kansas 67068 Owner: City of Kingman

Lots 101,103,105; Original Town.

13.	Fort Scott Public (Carnegie) Library (Bourbon County) 201 South National Fort Scott, Kansas 66701 Owner: City of Fort Scott Lots 1,(N1/2) 3; Block 123	c.	1902	11-1830-0016
14.	Girard Carnegie Library (Crawford County) 128 W. Prairie Girard, Kansas 66743 Owner: City of Girard Lots 17,18; Block 14.	c.	1906	37-2050-0003
15.	Herington Carnegie Public Library (Dickinson County) 102 S. Broadway Herington, Kansas 67449 Owner: City of Herington Lots 2,4; Block 40.	C.	1915	41-2420-0006
16.	Hutchinson Public (Carnegie) Library Building- Labor Temple (Reno County) 427 N. Main Hutchinson, Kansas 67501 Owner: Hutchinson Labor Building Association Lots 13,14,15; Block 17.	c.	1903- 1904	155-2660-0011
17.	Kingman Carnegie Library (Kingman County) 455 N. Main	c.	1914	95-2850-0006

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18. Lincoln Carnegie Library (Lincoln County) 203 S. Third Lincoln, Kansas 67455 Owner: City of Lincoln Lot 7; Block 32.	c. 1914	105–3189–005
19. Lyndon Carnegie Library (Osage County) 127 E. Sixth, P.O. Box 563 Lyndon, Kansas 66451 Owner: Valleybrook Township Lots 4-9; Block 22.	c. 1911	139-3360-0003
20. Manhattan Carnegie Library Building (Riley County) Fifth and Poyntz Manhattan, Kansas 66502 Owner: Riley County Board of Commissioners Lot 413; Ward 2.	c. 1904	161-3490-0016
21. Osborne Public (Carnegie) Library (Osborne County) Third and Main Osborne, Kansas 67473 Owner: City of Osborne All of Block 12.	c. 1913	141-4230-0006
22. Oswego Public (Carnegie) Library (Labette County) 704 Fourth Street Oswego, Kansas 67356 Owner: City of Oswego Lots 1,2,3,4; Block 32.	c. 1912	99-4250-0010
23. Peabody Township Carnegie Library (Marion County) 214 Walnut Peabody, Kansas 66866 Owner: Peabody Township Lots 80,82,84 on Walnut.	c. 1914	115-4410-0024
24. Sterling Free Public (Carnegie) Library (Rice County) 132 N. Broadway Sterling, Kansas 67579 Owner: City of Sterling Lots 182,184,186,188 on Broadway.	c. 1917	159-5225-0006

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25.	Washburn University Carnegie Library Building (Shawnee County) (Education Building) Topeka, Kansas 66621 Owner: Washburn University of Topeka SW1/4, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW1/4, S1,T12, R15E	c. 1904	177-5400-0017
26.	Wellington Carnegie Library (Sumner County) 121 W. Seventh Wellington, Kansas 67152 Owner: City of Wellington Lots 13,14,15,16,17; Block 53.	c. 1916	191-5730- <del>0012</del>
27.	Wichita City (Carnegie) Library Building (Sedgwick County) 220 S. Main Street Wichita, Kansas 67202 Owner: City of Wichita Lots 24,26,28,30,32,34,36 & 1/2 Vac. Alley Adj. on E. & Vac. Alley Ly. N. Lot 24 Exc. Beg. SE Cor. Lot 34 W 33.98 Ft. N. 100.56 Ft. W. 16.75 Ft. N. 9 Ft. Nwly. 15.36 Ft. W. 6.5 Ft. N. 10 Ft. W. 49 Ft. S. 25 Ft. W. 25 Ft. N. 58.66 Ft. E. to Cen. Li. Vac. Alley on E. Th. S. 115.56 Ft. W. 8 Ft. to SE Cor. Lot 30 S. to Beg. Main St. Greiffenstein's Add.	c. 1915	173-5880-0004
28.	Yates Center (Carnegie) Library (Woodson County) 218 N. Main Yates Center, Kansas 66783 Owner: City of Yates Center Lots 4,5,6; Block 27.	c. 1912	207-6010-0007

## 9. Major Bib. ographical References

See attached sheet.

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10.	Geogr	<u>'aphica</u>	ıl Da	ıta					
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Keeper (	of the Nationa	l Register					date		
Attest:							date		
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